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BOOK REVIEWS

Canadian Savage Folk—The Native Tribes of Canada. By John Maclean, M. A., Ph. D. (Illustrated). Toronto: William Briggs, 1897.

But little has been attempted in the way of systematizing the researches made among the native tribes of Canada, especially with reference to the relations these people sustain to their neighbors in the northern United States.

This seems to be the underlying thought of the author, as he gives an outline or census, as it were, of the surviving communities of the Indians of Canada.

While the subject-matter is presented from the standpoint of the missionary rather than of the scientist, still the author, as he himself states, attempts to reach the meaning of the life of the savage folk.

About one-third of the volume, or nearly 200 pages, is devoted to a recital of the present number, condition, location, and history of the remnants of the once powerful Siouan and Algonquian stocks. Their customs, church, and camp, native heroes, and religions, races and languages are treated in turn, and the last 100 pages are devoted to "Trail." With the various tribes noted is a short vocabulary illustrating the language of each.

J. H. McCORMICK, M. D.

Researches upon the Antiquity of Man in the Delaware Valley and the Eastern United States. By Henry C. Mercer. Vol. VI of the Series in Philology, Literature, and Archæology. Publications of the University of Pennsylvania.

This contains five papers by Henry C. Mercer. The first and most important is devoted to an inquiry as to the age of turtlebacks. After describing his own experiences among the grave specimens of this country and of Europe, the author sums up his conclusions as follows with reference to the vexed question of paleolithic man in New Jersey:

1. Three personal searches at the Pennsylvania Railroad ballast quarry at Trenton, the site of numerous discoveries, and where the stratified gravel was continually exposed by the workmen in fresh sections, failed to reveal a specimen in place.

2. Argillite "turtlebacks" resembling the Trenton blades were found associated with Indian refuse at Gallows Run, Hickory

Run, Lower Blacks Eddy, and other river village sites, and never at isolated spots or flaking places disassociated with Indian remains.

3. Indian quarries were discovered in the adjacent region at Durham, Saucon Creek, Macungie, and Vera Cruz, where Indians had mined jasper in comparatively modern times, and produced wasters, "turtlebacks," resembling in all but their material the argillite "turtlebacks" from Trenton and their duplicates from the surface river village sites.

4. As compared with Europe, the traces of man in the Delaware valley (if we except Trenton) were modern and scanty. The thin homogeneous deposits were all referable to the Indian as we know him.

5. The caves explored by the writer failed to give evidence of pre-Indian or geological ancient man, Durham cave having been injured by blasting, Hartmans cave having been excavated without a careful study of layers, Raubsville cave having lacked floor deposits, and the "Indian house," with its floor film of Indian refuse, having appeared of insignificant size.

Chapter second of this paper is, if possible, more interesting than the first, since it describes minutely the finding of an ancient argillite quarry at Gaddis Run and lower down the stream a blade workshop on the Delaware river. It is definitely shown by Mr Mercer's careful researches that in the quarry rude hammers were used, and similar operations of this at Piney branch were carried on. Only three pitted hammer stones were found in the quarry, and these were supposed to have been lost there by workmen from the blade shop lower down the stream. With reference to these two points Mr Mercer comes to the following conclusions:

a. That the "turtlebacks" (none of which show signs of use) cannot have been wanted by their makers, or they would not have been left to the extent of one to every bushel of chips. Some may have been lost (like two finished blades at the camp workshop to be described), but the great majority must have been "wasters" or "rejects" cast aside in the process of the work.

b. In their present state they are as much "finished" as the Trenton specimens. Therefore, if the latter are tools, the quarrymen were not making such tools at the quarry; for if they had

been they would have wanted them, and if they had wanted them they would not have left them.

c. Not a single one of the thinned-down blades, so sparsely found at Piney branch, not a trace of one of the broad argillite cache blades, so common at the Delaware Indian sites, were met with in all the tons of refuse overturned (see figure 22).

d. Two of the "turtlebacks" were very much larger than alleged implements from the European drift or from Trenton.

e. That the presence of three pitted hammers associated the work with a Neolithic people rather than the alleged driftmen of Trenton.

f. That the mere presence of the "turtlebacks" again disconnected it with any people like the alleged driftmen, who, if they had made the blades, as finished implements would have wanted to use them, and so would not have left them.

g. That, though seeming to belong to a special class, the shape, position, and general appearance of the "turtlebacks" allied them with work known to have been done by modern Indians.

h. That the position of the quarries seemed to connect them with the Indian rather than any other race, lying as they do on what might be called a pathway littered with Indian blade material, leading directly from the ancient mines to an Indian village only half a mile away.

i. That, granting their connection with the Indians, the absence of a growth of forest mould over the workings argues against their great age.

k. Lastly, that the resemblance in make of a certain number of Trenton specimens to the quarry series suggests that the former had been made by modern Indians and intruded by them into the gravels.

After discussing the "turtleback" in its original source and the blade-making camp on the Delaware, Mr Mercer sums up the evidences of his own experiments and the testimony of travelers and historians regarding the process by which the last finishing touches were put upon stone implements of various kinds. The gist of Mr Mercer's argument is summed up on page 85 as follows: "No token of an antecedent race was discovered, either upon the exposed native rock, upon the hills above, or on the beaches below; nor has anything been found anywhere else in the valley to corroborate the alleged antiquity

of the chipped blades from Trenton, while, as remarked before, the Trenton case has been somewhat weakened by the appearance among the exhibited list of Drift specimens in the Peabody museum of several blades of common Indian pattern (see figure 11), and of certain 'turtlebacks' (see figure 13), which, judged by form, appear to have been made by Indians at the Gaddis Run quarries. More than ever the question of Glacial man has been narrowed down to evidence produced at one site and to a question of the correctness of observation of individuals."

The Indian ossuary examined on the Choptank river in Maryland reveals two layers in which remains of man existed; one represents the site of an Indian village which existed formerly on the bluff; the occupants made their arrow-heads from jasper pebbles of the neighboring beaches; the ossuary or collection of human bones was constructed in accordance with known Indian customs; and, finally, the bones are those of the Nanticokes who occupied the site until 1722.

The third paper relates to an aboriginal shell heap on York river, Maine. The result of Mr Mercer's inquiries is that the later and upper accumulations belong to a period not more modern than the latter part of the sixteenth century, while the lower portion may represent times several centuries older.

The fourth chapter describes aboriginal remains at a rock-shelter in the Delaware valley. The culture layer in the cave represents the familiar Indian of the Delaware valley. There was no trace of a cave inhabitant, but evidence of the red man, within a time represented by the scope of a few centuries, taking casual shelter in the cave and feasting upon the remains of mussels, turtle, and deer.

The last paper is the description of an exploration of Durham cave, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, in 1893. Archæologists always look carefully at any description of cave hunting by Mr Mercer, as he is the best informed man in our country upon such subjects, having had much experience therein. His conclusion is, "In these once dark inner regions we had failed to find anywhere a significant hearth site, a jasper chip, a potsherd, or an Indian implement of bone or stone." Found therein were part of the refuse of Indian feasts in the outer cave and carried to the recesses of carnivorous animals. There is no proof of the geological antiquity of man.

O. T. MASON,